

long appendix. The cæcum was, however, situated much lower than usual and lay in the iliac fossa. The first part of the oblique portion of the gut had not acquired its usual relation to the duodenum, but crossed the lower pole of the kidney, to which it was firmly bound by strong fibrous tissue. This part of the gut was a narrow cord-like tube with an extremely narrow lumen; it was, further, bent upon itself almost at right angles. The remainder of the colon, beyond this narrow portion, was greatly dilated and filled with meconium. On dissection, the ureter was found to pass downwards over the anterior surface of the lower pole of the kidney, and to be compressed between it and the narrow portion of the gut. Above this point the ureter was greatly dilated, forming a hydronephrosis of the pelvic type, and there can be little doubt that this condition was brought about by the pressure of the gut.

THE NATIONAL EYE SERVICE

THE National Eye Service, which is operated by the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board (N.O.T.B.), is designed to provide an expert medical examination of the eyes, together with accurately-made glasses where necessary, at a moderate "all-in" cost. An advantage in this is that pathological conditions are likely to be recognized at an early stage, when some remedial treatment can be carried out. The total average cost of the service, including ophthalmic examination and glasses, varies between 14s. and 36s. 6d. for a single pair of glasses, according to the prescription and style of glasses selected.

In the drawing up of the scheme, the British Medical Association took a leading part, and it has been given widespread support from the medical profession generally, including ophthalmologists.

In every large centre the Board has a panel of ophthalmic surgeons, and the patient is at liberty to choose from this list whomsoever he may prefer, or whoever may be indicated by his doctor.

The patient is seen at the surgeon's rooms at a time arranged by the Board's representatives to suit the surgeon and himself, thus escaping the long periods of waiting that are unavoidable at hospital clinics.

Those entitled to benefit under the scheme may be classed in three groups :—

- (1) All state insured persons.
- (2) Dependents of state insured persons.
- (3) Any member of the community whose total family income does not exceed £250.

Doctors who wish to refer their patients under this scheme should send the patient to Messrs. Murray & Abernethy, 15 Donegall Square South, Belfast, or telephone Belfast 21669, when an explanation can be given as to how the scheme

affects the particular patient. Appointments are made by Messrs. Murray & Abernethy, who represent the Board, and through whom all payments connected with the transaction are paid.

If the patient is an insured person and entitled to ophthalmic benefit, whatever grant is allowed him by his Society goes towards the total cost. It may be mentioned that a number of Health Insurance Societies, now including the Prudential Approved Societies, allow the sum of 10s. 6d. (to cover the surgeon's fee in full) in addition to their regular grants towards the cost of glasses.

Other Societies, in all cases where ophthalmic benefit is given, make a grant of five shillings towards the cost of examination, the balance of 5s. 6d. being made up by the member.

In such cases it will be seen that for the small additional cost of 5s. 6d. to the patient, an expert medical examination is provided. It may also be pointed out that often the reduced prices charged for glasses to N.O.T.B. patients will neutralize this additional cost.

Since the scheme was started some years ago, patients numbering many thousands have been dealt with.

The representatives of the Board in Belfast and Londonderry are Messrs. Murray & Abernethy, Dispensing Opticians, 15 Donegall Square South, Belfast, and at Market Buildings, Strand Road, Londonderry, who will be glad to furnish further information concerning the scheme to any medical practitioner who may be interested.

ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE fourth meeting of the session was held on Thursday, 16th January, 1936, in the Whitla Medical Institute. The president, Dr. Foster Coates, occupied the chair.

Two papers were read, one by Dr. R. W. M. Strain, entitled "The Etiology of Erythema Nodosum," and the other by Mr. J. M. Wheeler, entitled "The Causes, Care, and Prevention of Blindness." These two papers are published elsewhere in this number of the Journal.

The fifth meeting of the session was held on Thursday, 30th January, 1936, in the Whitla Medical Institute. The president, Dr. Foster Coates, was in the chair. Professor P. T. Crymble read a paper entitled "The Surgery of the Colon." A long discussion followed, in which the gynæcologists took a prominent part, with reference to the surgery of the pelvic end of the colon. It was suggested that the good results obtained in cases of cancer of this part of the colon, by gynæcologists, could be explained by the fact that they found the condition at an early stage, when treating some other pelvic condition, long before the patient had noticed anything